



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 12-18-08

ARLINGTON YOUTH HEALTH AND SAFETY COALITION

MINUTES

Thursday, December 18, 2008
5:30-7:00PM

Present: Cindy Bouvier, Adria Arch, John Budzyna, John Scheft, Kathy Hirsch, Sarah Lee, Andrea Razi, Lucille Nicholson, Ethel Doyle, Colleen Leger, Christine Sharkey, Natasha Thorne, Charles Skidmore, Cindy Sheridan

Attendees: 14

I. Drug Recognition Program

Richard Kendall: Melrose Police Officer, Lawyer

Presentation of his educational programs targeting: Parents, Teachers and School Officials, and Students. Coalition will assess school officials interest in "drug recognition" training. Coalition will explore other drug recognition programs.

II. Marijuana Public Consumption Regulations

Christine Sharkey

New possession law will take effect in January. The state is working on model regulation that would prohibit smoking of Marijuana in public places. Our Town Council is drafting a similar regulation to be enforced locally (will go to Town Meeting). The Board of Health is working to expand current tobacco smoking ban to include smoking of Marijuana. Students at AHS confused by what new law actually means. Some believe there will be no consequences for possessing/smoking marijuana under new law.

Coalition will provide AHS with materials (literature, posters, fact sheets) to educate students about the legal repercussions of smoking marijuana

III. Youth Council Update

Kathy Hirsch, Andrea Razi, Colleen Leger

Youth Council application form has been created and application process expected to commence in January. The Youth Council will be comprised of 12-15 AHS students representing various ages, interests and experiences. Coalition supportive of education around harm reduction and healthy decision-making, in addition to abstinence. Considering involving middle school students at some level. Plans for substance-free activities underway.

Next working group meeting: 1/08/09. New working group member: Bayard Kilmasmith. We will explore options for

substance-free events (suggestions: Harlem Globetrotters, skiing at Nashoba Valley)
Andrea and Kathy will talk to guidance counselors, house deans, and other school officials to identify potential candidates for Youth Council.

IV. Working Groups

Colleen distributed a list containing descriptions of 5 working groups (CMCA, Community/Youth Assessment—YRBS, High Risk Youth, Youth Council, and Community Forum). High risk youth working group in need of a Coalition member to spearhead this initiative (researching evidence-based programs targeting high risk population). CMCA initiatives underway: strengthening local alcohol policies.

Colleen will ask Board of Youth Services if they would be willing to provide leadership to the High Risk Youth working group. The Community Forum working group will convene for its first meeting during the 2nd week of January. Details to follow. YRBS working group has met twice and will meet again during the 2nd week of January.

V. Arlington Center for the Arts

John Budzyna and Adria Arch

Propose a partnering of the AYHSC with the ACA and other local organizations to develop positive social programs for middle and high school students. “Substance-free” events could be sponsored by various “partner” organizations such as the ACA, with partial funding from AYHSC. Align the mission of AYHSC with the services/missions of participating organizations.

Future action will require identifying other organizations in the community that would be willing to get involved. The Youth Council advisors will elicit feedback from Youth Council (once established) about activities that would interest middle and high school students.